

IN THE CLAIMS:

All claims currently pending and under consideration in the referenced application are shown in the listing of claims and will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application. Claims 9-11 are amended herein. Claims 1-7 and 12-21 were previously cancelled. No new matter has been added. Please enter these claims as amended.

Listing of the Claims:

1-7. (cancelled)

8. (Previously presented) An isolated nucleic acid sequence encoding a protein, said protein characterized by an ability to form a complex with receptors of the Tumor Necrosis Factor ("TNF") superfamily including the cytoplasmic domain of CD40 as determined by a yeast two-hybrid interaction assay or a co-immunoprecipitation assay, said protein comprising amino acids 54-140 of SEQ ID NO:2 or a fragment thereof of at least 10 consecutive amino acids in length and which is able to form said complex.

9. (Currently amended) The isolated nucleic acid sequence of claim 8 with 70-100% ~~homology~~ nucleotide similarity to the ~~DNA~~ nucleotide sequence ~~depicted in~~ of SEQ ID NO:1.

10. (Currently amended) The isolated nucleic acid sequence of claim 8 with 70-100% ~~homology~~ nucleotide similarity to the ~~DNA~~ nucleotide sequence ~~depicted in~~ of SEQ ID NO:3.

11. (Currently amended) The isolated nucleic acid sequence of claim 8 with 70-100% ~~homology~~ nucleotide similarity to the ~~DNA~~ nucleotide sequence ~~depicted in~~ of SEQ ID NO:5.

12-21. (cancelled)

22. (original) The isolated nucleic acid sequence of claim 8 encoding a protein comprising amino acids 54-362 of SEQ ID NO:2.

23. (original) The isolated nucleic acid sequence of claim 8 encoding a protein comprising amino acids 54-273 of SEQ ID NO:2.

24. (original) The isolated nucleic acid of claim 8 encoding a protein comprising amino acids 54-236 of SEQ ID NO:2.